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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 250

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

MARCH, 1964

Statewide Spring Employment Upturn Ready to Start

Employment in February 1964

Spring Job Shape-Up Looks Good—

The traditional forces which limit some labor market activity in Montana during the winter months were starting to dissipate by March 1st. Barring adverse weather conditions, employment expansion in most industry groups should be well underway by the first of April. A heavy agenda of industrial and agricultural activity is on the spring work schedule. Some major highway and building projects are already in progress; others are set for early start and should provide peak construction employment of 15,000 or more by late summer. The seasonal openings of national parks, resort areas, and increased main street business during Montana's Centennial Year will make thousands of additional jobs for trade and service workers. Employment in lumber manufacturing and mining seems certain for more expansion if present trends hold. There may be a few problem areas but the overall statewide employment picture this year should set some new records.

Record February Employment—164,800 non-farm workers were on payrolls of industry and commerce at mid-February. This is a preliminary estimate of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics based on return from samples of 859 selected Montana establishments.

The final revised figure will be available in April. This February employment total of non-farm workers was the highest of record for that month. It was 1,800 higher than the previous February record established in 1963.

Employment Drop Less Than Usual—

Employment changes between January 1964 and February, 1964 were mostly seasonal and resulted in an employment drop of 500 between those two months. The employment dip between these two months in 1963 was 900 workers.

Month-to-Month Changes—Construction employment, up 300, between January and February, 1964 was the only industry to show a monthly employment increase. Employment declines of 400 in manufacturing, industries, 300 in trade establishments, and 100 in finance, insurance and real estate units presented the debit side of the picture and were largely the result of seasonal influences of the winter season in Montana. February payrolls of mining, transportation, communications, and utilities, service industries, and government establishments remained the same as January totals.

February 1964 Against February 1963—February, 1964 employment compared with February, 1963 reveals four industry groups with higher payrolls this February than last year. Govern-

ment employment heads the list with an increment of 1,700 workers, followed by trade, up 400, construction, up 200, and service industries, up 100. Manufacturing payrolls had 500 fewer workers this February than last chiefly because of completed Minuteman Missile activity. Mining payrolls were down 100 this February with all of the decline attached to petroleum and natural gas production. Employment totals in transportation, communications and utilities, at 16,900; and in finance, insurance, and real estate firms, at 6,700, remained identical with February, 1963 employment figures.

UCC Claim Peak Past—Unemployment claims reached a peak of 12,273 for the week of January 24, 1964. Claim declines have occurred weekly since that time with the exception of two weeks when modest increases were the result of bad weather. Heavy weekly claim drops will occur during April and May as the spring employment expansion begins in earnest.

Employment Series Revised—The yearly supplement of annual revisions of employment estimates, hours and earnings, and labor turnover rates is being mailed with this issue. A new table with Montana civilian labor force, employment, and total unemployment figures replaces the former "Labor Market Indicators" table on page 2 of this publication.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jan. 1964	2) Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. 1964	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. 1964	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. 1964	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963	Jan. 1964	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1963
All Manufacturing	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	3.5	4.1	3.8	1.4	1.3	1.3	.9	1.8	1.6
Durable Goods	4.2	2.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	4.1	4.6	4.9	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.0	2.2	2.1
Primary Metal	5.6	1.9	3.1	1.4	.5	1.3	3.6	4.5	2.7	.9	.4	.8	.4	2.6	.3
Nondurable Goods	1.9	2.6	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.2	2.3	3.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	.5	.7	1.2	.3
All Mining	9.2	5.9	7.5	5.5	3.4	4.6	7.5	7.2	6.8	1.9	1.9	2.9	1.5	2.7	1.0
Metal Mining	7.6	5.9	8.5	4.4	2.3	3.7	3.6	4.4	6.8	1.4	1.4	2.4	.2	.8	.2

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary February 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—463 jobseekers, 96 new, 340 men, 123 women. Jobseeker files dropped 104 from January due chiefly to recall of smeltermen. Expected layoffs at mill so far have not materialized postponing plans for training programs to assist the unemployed in acquiring new skills. Labor demands in most other industries at low ebb.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,268 jobseekers, 689 new, 2,410 men, 858 women). Labor market activity in a stage between winter letdown and spring pickup. Nearly half of February's job placements were short-time. Generally sluggish trends in trade establishments resulted in some layoffs while employment in the service industries remained fairly constant. Opening of new cafe made 12 jobs. Coal mining activities at Roundup and Red Lodge below normal with many miners on short work weeks. Some upswing in oil field work at Roundup due to new well discovery in the Pole Creek field. Farm labor demand on the passive side but pick up expected during March.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(579 jobseekers, 187 new, 398 men, 181 women). Job placements increased moderately over last month and last year due chiefly to increased hiring by service industries. New work applications down 30% from January but 3% above February 1963. Logging and sawmill employment keeps at good pace for this time of the year. Slight temporary employment decline noted in cement manufacturing. Some employment expansion in construction and trade expected throughout March.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,432 jobseekers, 360 new, 1,025 men, 407 women). Metal mine hiring continue to dominate local labor market scene. New copper concentrator officially completed with only some final technical and research aspects occupying a few technicians. Main street hiring not too sharp but some demand for clerical and sales workers due to normal labor turnover.

CUT BANK—(563 jobseekers, 77 new, 436 men, 132 women). Hiring trend not too active in any industry except logging and sawmills which provided most February job openings. Lengthy labor dispute between hotel and restaurant employees and employment concern along main street. Good line up of construction jobs on spring schedule including housing project road work, and pipe lines among other.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Feb. 64	Jan. 64	Feb. 63
Civilian Work Force	240.0	244.5	240.5
Total Employment	221.3	226.2	222.5
Total Non-agricultural Employment	192.9	195.6	192.8
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	164.8	165.3	163.0
Total Agricultural Employment	28.4	30.6	29.7
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.1	.0
Total Unemployment	18.5	18.2	18.0
Percent Unemployed	7.7	7.4	7.5

DILLON—(228 jobseekers, 77 new, 166 men, 62 women). Most building construction continued with short crews during February but work on heavy construction including Clark Canyon Dam and highway projects stood still because of bad weather. Main street hiring at winter low. Farm labor demand chiefly for lambing, calving, and feeding activities.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(457 jobseekers, 45 new, 343 men, 114 women). Outside work confined to small crews working of several air base projects, small commercial units and an oil pipe line. Main street hiring trends not too active but show signs of picking up.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(271 jobseekers, 69 new, 205 men, 66 women). Labor market trends in most industries at seasonal low. A few men employed on small building construction projects and highway bridge. Oil field work remains slow with no immediate improvement expected. Supply of farm labor adequate to meet present limited demands.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,353 jobseekers, 448 new, 1,586 men, 767 women). Labor market shows little change from January except for modest hiring in manufacturing and construction. Smelter hiring continued weekly on a moderate scale after settlement of labor dispute. Trends in trade industries on the dull side but some upswing noted in service industry hiring. Seventy persons currently enrolled in MDTA training classes for welders, cooks, accountants, and carpenters.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(428 jobseekers, 74 new, 329 men, 99 women). Work applications up 20% from last year due to completed construction projects and curtailment of forest service activities. Unemployment claims of federal workers exceed last year by 30%. Nearly half of February job placements were on shorttime jobs. Logging still fairly active not yet affected by spring breakup conditions.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—(474 jobseekers, 67 new, 400 men, 74 women). Job placements down from last year and last month due to decline in farm income and adversely affected business area. Over 30 employed on two new building projects including high school and newspaper plant. Trade and service trends remain on the slow side.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(657 jobseekers, 182 new, 487 men, 170 women). No appreciable change noted in labor market conditions from last year. February labor market demand on the slow side with occasional calls for clerical and service industry workers. Construction and logging employment held in check by weather conditions. Farm labor demand edging up slowly.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,684 jobseekers, 216 new, 1,364 men, 320 women). Increased hiring in construction highlighted the February labor market but was offset by substantial declines in logging employment due to the spring breakup. Work began on expansion at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant with an employment peak of at least 900 expected by late summer. Sawmill employment fairly active.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(540 jobseekers, 73 new, 398 men, 142 women). Increased hiring in trade and service industries occurred during February and to a lesser extent in construction. Home building main construction activity at present but work to start soon on 100 unit motel and other building. Demand for farm and ranch workers will exceed supply by mid-March.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(453 jobseekers, 77 new, 327 men, 126 women). New applications for work up 20% from last year with majority of increase female and younger workers. Employment trends in logging, saw mills, and trade fairly good but construction at standstill. Some railroad hiring noted. Applications for summer work at Yellowstone Park being processed daily.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
56	156.3	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
57	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
58	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
59	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	163.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
60	156.9	154.3	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
61	157.2	153.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
62	162.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
63	165.3	164.8*											

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary February 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(511 jobseekers, 159 new, 441 men, 70 women). February labor market slowest of record with reduced employment activities in most industries. No major construction projects active or pending. Volume of main street business down from last year. Only slight farm labor demand.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,488 jobseekers, 454 new, 1,040 men, 448 women). Job placements up 15% over last year while active file of jobseekers increased by 25%. Labor market trends not to active but holding up fairly well for this season of the year. Good employment upturn forecast for most industry groups next 2 months.

POLSON—(462 jobseekers, 56 new, 371 men, 91 women). Labor market activity generally fair in most industries including logging, construction, trade and service. Cleaning and grading seed potatoes made temporary employment for over 50 workers. Slight temporary decline noted in some lumber manufacturing.

SHELBY—(304 jobseekers, 54 new, 235 men, 69 women). Job placements dropped 20% from last month and 30% from last year due to bad weather which closed down all outside work including construction and oil fields. Trade and service trends fairly steady.

SIDNEY—(198 jobseekers, 48 new, 173 men, 25 women). No significant changes in labor market patterns during February. Post holiday slump continues in most trade units. Building projects employ a few workers. Sugar Beet refining ended mid-March releasing 300 workers.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(220 jobseekers, 49 new, 184 men, 36 women). Job hires up slightly over January but down from February a year ago. Snow and cold weather interrupted logging and brought most construction to a halt. Most sawmills on steady schedules using stockpiled logs. No farm labor demand.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(552 jobseekers, 66 new, 482 men, 70 women). Labor market trends fairly active in most industries with exception of the oil fields. Construction employment down slightly but two housing projects keeps 40 employed. Trade and service volume fairly stable with shortages of cooks and waitresses at times. Farm labor demand still at low level.

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1962 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 859 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,227 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1964 (2)	Jan. 1964 (3)	Feb. 1963	Jan. '64 to Feb. '64	Feb. '63 Against Feb. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	164,800	165,300	163,000	— 500	1,800
Manufacturing	21,400	21,800	21,900	— 400	— 500
Durable goods	13,100	13,200	14,600	— 100	—1,500
Lumber and timber products	8,400	8,600	7,800	— 200	600
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,200	00	00
Other (4)	1,500	1,400	3,600	100	—2,100
Nondurable goods	8,300	8,600	7,300	— 300	1,000
Food and kindred products	4,800	5,100	4,000	— 300	800
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,100	00	100
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	6,900	6,900	7,000	00	— 100
Metal mining	4,400	4,400	4,200	00	200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	2,000	00	— 400
Contract Construction	8,800	8,500	8,600	300	200
Contractors, building construction	2,500	2,700	2,800	— 200	— 300
Contractors, other than building	2,100	1,800	1,900	300	200
Contractors, special trade	4,200	4,000	3,900	200	300
Transportation and utilities	16,900	16,900	16,900	00	00
Interstate railroads	7,500	7,500	7,600	00	— 100
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,700	5,700	5,700	00	00
Trade	38,100	38,400	37,700	— 300	400
Wholesale trade	8,500	8,500	8,200	00	300
Retail trade	29,600	29,900	29,500	— 300	100
General merchandise and apparel	5,700	5,900	5,500	— 200	200
Food stores	4,600	4,600	4,900	00	— 300
Eating and drinking establishments	7,100	7,200	6,900	— 100	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,300	6,300	6,400	00	— 100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	5,900	5,900	5,800	00	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,800	6,700	— 100	00
Services and miscellaneous	23,100	23,100	23,000	00	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,900	3,000	2,700	— 100	200
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6)	18,200	18,100	18,300	100	— 100
Government	42,900	42,900	41,200	00	1,700
Federal	11,200	11,300	10,700	— 100	500
State and local	31,700	31,600	30,500	100	1,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,200	21,300	24,300	— 100	—3,100
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	5,200	00	—2,100
Contract construction	1,600	1,600	2,600	00	—1,000
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,500	5,600	5,500	— 100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,600	3,600	00	00
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	22,700	22,600	21,700	100	1,000
Manufacturing	2,800	2,800	2,400	00	400
Contract construction	1,200	1,200	1,000	00	200
Transportation and utilities	2,400	2,400	2,400	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,200	7,100	7,000	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Government	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY 1964 AND FEBRUARY 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Feb. 1964		Feb. 1963		Feb. 1964		Feb. 1963		Feb. 1964				Feb. 1963				Wk 3-6	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	96	35	72	13	463	97	443	75	34	6	40	10	18		18	5	342	270
Billings	689	136	729	142	3,268	812	3,520	849	358	59	417	114	322	61	383	108	1,964	1,884
Bozeman	187	26	175	31	579	102	655	123	110	21	131	40	90	19	109	21	319	371
Butte	360	68	324	66	1,432	327	998	228	91	1	92	20	125	1	126	44	820	707
Cut Bank	77	19	44	8	568	197	396	118	41	76	117	20	82	43	125	54	321	225
Dillon	77	30	55	14	228	59	196	50	11	49	60	33	19	43	62	27	179	144
Glasgow	45	5	62	5	457	76	489	88	29	7	36	6	49	6	55	15	325	362
Glendive	69	9	48	4	271	55	403	41	18	5	23	8	39	19	58	9	171	189
Great Falls	448	90	578	98	2,355	619	2,370	698	252	59	311	69	231	30	261	40	1,668	1,459
Hamilton	74	19	50	8	428	238	342	82	29	6	35	7	29	6	35	11	321	223
Havre	67	8	126	9	474	126	518	146	31	34	65		42	18	60	28	378	334
Helena	182	41	181	35	657	195	873	269	64	21	85	19	67	11	78	17	710	639
Kalispell	216	48	227	43	1,684	452	1,544	461	91	5	96	28	112	3	115	30	1,295	1,395
Lewistown	73	15	72	15	540	142	500	113	28	15	43	9	59	25	84	31	317	351
Livingston	77	9	64	7	453	89	465	99	21	5	26	6	48	8	56	21	394	382
Miles City	159	9	44	5	511	82	409	97	15	5	20	6	36	27	63	10	392	313
Missoula	454	51	401	82	1,488	339	1,123	330	191	13	204	41	170	12	182	21	874	888
Polson	56	11	48	7	462	125	475	135	17	18	35	8	18	4	22	5	304	283
Shelby	54	9	63	13	304	72	399	87	23	109	132	18	20	32	52	9	190	211
Sidney	48	8	70	10	198	37	266	49	22	3	25	5	24	5	29	5	136	191
Thomp. Falls	49	11	51	12	220	49	252	68	26		26	4	48		48	26	151	174
Wolf Point	66	22	36	7	552	101	396	99	13	1	14	4	28		28	9	297	264
TOTALS	3,623	679	3,520	634	17,592	4,391	17,032	4,305	1,515	518	2,033	475	1,676	373	2,049	546	11,867	11,259

*Includes 1,449 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,007 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. (1) 1964	Jan. (2) 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. (1) 1964	Jan. (2) 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. (1) 1964	Jan. (2) 1964	Feb. 1963
All Manufacturing	\$108.14	\$106.93	\$109.61	40.2	40.2	40.9	2.69	2.66	2.68
Durable Goods	104.52	104.26	111.30	40.2	40.1	42.0	2.60	2.60	2.65
Primary Metals	108.81	105.99	104.40	40.3	39.4	40.0	2.70	2.69	2.61
Nondurable Goods	114.57	112.19	106.20	40.2	40.5	38.2	2.85	2.77	2.78
Food and Kindred Products	101.43	98.40	91.57	40.9	41.0	39.3	2.48	2.40	2.33
All Mining	114.57	115.30	112.47	40.2	40.6	41.5	2.85	2.84	2.71
Metal Mining	112.79	112.79	106.70	39.3	39.3	38.8	2.87	2.87	2.75
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	105.84	108.94	101.01	39.2	40.2	39.0	2.70	2.71	2.59

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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